

Tuberous Sclerosis is a genetic disorder that causes benign tumors to form in any of the vital organs—including the brain, eyes, heart, kidneys, and skin. It is often first recognized because of epileptic seizures and/or varying degrees of developmental delay. But, too often Tuberous Sclerosis goes undetected or is misdiagnosed because its symptoms are similar to those of more well-known diseases, such as epilepsy or autism. However, more recognition and early diagnosis is desperately needed. Infants and children too often spend their lives being misdiagnosed, possibly leading to irreparable brain damage, kidney failure, and even premature death. With a variety of treatments currently available to ease symptoms and improve the quality of life for people with Tuberous Sclerosis, diagnosis is critical.

Mr. Speaker, as May is Tuberous Sclerosis Month, I urge my colleagues to join me in bringing awareness to a devastating disease that affects at least one child born each day. By helping America to learn about and understand Tuberous Sclerosis, we will help to improve the quality of life for many children.

HONORING HEAR O'ISRAEL

HON. KEN BENTSEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 25, 2000

Mr. BENTSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize a valued organization within the Houston community, Hear O'Israel, which is sponsoring Listen to the Cries of the Children National Campaign 2000. Hear O'Israel International, Inc. developed the campaign to strengthen the unity of families and enhance public awareness of the negative effects that alcohol and drug abuse, family violence, child abuse, and gang activity have on children and their families across Houston.

Mr. Speaker, the following resolution approved May 11th by the Mayor and Houston City Council demonstrates the high regard for Hear O'Israel in our community.

[From the Hear O'Israel International, May 22, 2000]

LISTEN TO THE CRIES OF THE CHILDREN NATIONAL CAMPAIGN 2000

A non-profit, non-denominational organization, Hear O'Israel International, Inc. developed its Listen to the Cries of the Children National Campaign to strengthen the unity of families and enhance public awareness of the negative effects that alcohol and drug abuse, family violence, child abuse, and gang activity have on children and their families. The campaign has heard the cries of the children and parents, young and old, who are crying out due to neglect; physical challenges; broken homes; or lack of adequate food, shelter, clothing, and health care. The Listen to the Cries of the Children National Campaign 2000 will promote "... wisdom, knowledge, understanding, and forgiveness that will break them out of their prisons, visible or invisible."

As part of its ongoing effort to help the suffering, Hear O'Israel International, Inc. has conducted community-oriented programs, campaigning with former gang members who were shot and, after becoming quadriplegic, are presenting themselves as

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physical evidence to reinforce the negative consequences of gang involvement and experimentation with drugs and alcohol. As a part of this year's campaign, Hear O'Israel International, Inc. will call for ten seconds of silence at noon C.S.T. every day throughout the year 2000, in an effort to bridge cultural boundaries and unify a response to hear and Listen to the Cries of the Children and to "stop violence and have mercy, love and compassion for our fellow man; to turn the hearts of the fathers to the children and the hearts of the children to their fathers, linking and strengthening the connection that should be present between every parent, child, American, and all around the world."

The Mayor and the City Council of the City of Houston do hereby salute Hear O'Israel International, Inc. for its efforts to improve and enhance the quality of life for our children, and extend best wishes for continued success.

Approved by the Mayor and City Council of the City of Houston this 11th day of May, 2000, A.D.

THE CERRO GRANDE COMPENSATION ACT

HON. TOM UDALL

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 25, 2000

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, twenty-one days ago the National Park Service in the Bandelier National Monument initiated a prescribed burn located near Los Alamos, New Mexico. Despite adverse and unpredictable weather conditions, the Park Service elected to ignite this fire.

As all of you are aware, control of that fire was quickly lost resulting in the destruction of over 200 homes and over 44,000 acres of land. Although now under control, the fire continues to burn today.

The legislation titled "The Cerro Grande Compensation Act" would expeditiously compensate those individuals who have suffered losses as a direct result of this fire. Specifically, this bill would compensate individuals, businesses, homes, public buildings, and Native American tribes for personal injuries and property losses sustained as a result of this tragedy.

This legislation is only a first step in an attempt to make these victims whole again. Particularly those who lost everything in the fire and have a long road ahead after recovering from their losses.

I will continue to work with the New Mexico delegation and the Clinton Administration to see that a plan is quickly put in place to compensate the victims of the Cerro Grande fire.

Through this painful experience I am confident that we as Members of Congress and the Federal Government will continue to show compassion and understanding to those who have been affected by this disaster, and do everything we can to make them whole.

May 25, 2000

TIME TO REORGANIZE THE U.S. FOREST SERVICE

HON. JOE SKEEN

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 25, 2000

Mr. SKEEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce legislation that is long overdue and desperately needed. My legislation, the 2000 U.S. Forest Service Organization Reform bill is simple legislation. Under this proposal the current Regional Offices of the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) would be eliminated. In the terms of organization structure they would be replaced by state USFS offices. Each state would have a state director, just as several other agencies within the U.S. Department of Agriculture operate. The Bureau of Land Management (BLM), in the Department of the Interior also is organized in this manner.

Authority would be granted for the establishment of up to six technical support centers as well as allowing the USFS to have multi-state directors where the Federal forest presence is minor. The Forest Service office for a state would be responsible for the administration of National Forest System lands within the state.

I have come to the conclusion that I can no longer wait for the USFS to do the right thing. I can no longer wait for them to solve their management problems. I can no longer wait to see our forests suffer from neglect, mismanagement and misuse. This administration's record on addressing the major issues facing our forests on these issues is dismal. Reinventing government in the USFS today means that nobody is in charge. It means forest plans that nobody can understand. It means lawsuits and court decisions that destroy people's livelihoods and damage their families irreparably. And now it means catastrophic fires that cost millions of dollars and endangered the life and property of our citizens that live in and near our forests.

USFS state offices will be the first step in bringing accountability into this agency of government. This office will be closer to the people in the state. The Director will interface directly and often with state officials, local government and concerned citizens. The Director will be accountable for what happens in the forest of the respective states. No longer would the USFS be able to hide in their regional offices. No longer would they be able to ignore problems in the respective states. The BLM manages more land than the USFS. The BLM planning program has been a model of unbridled success when compared to the disastrous Forest Service process. Part of the reason for this success is having a more responsive State office.

I would add at this point I have met numerous excellent USFS employees and I have been continually puzzled as to why these good people cannot make this agency work? Why, year after year, do we have study after study that talks about the mismanagement? I have finally decided that it is the structure of the USFS that is smothering the abilities of the individual employees and stopping them from solving the problems on our Forest Service lands. Today, we have "teams" and "team leaders" in government but not supervisors.